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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

avenging in bestial fashion a bestial deed, and reducing themselves to a level with the criminal.

In dealing with both labor and capital, with the questions affecting both corporations and trades unions, there is one matter more important to remember than aught else, and that is the infinite harm done by preachers of mere discontent. These are the men who seek to excite a violent class hatred against all men of wealth. They seek to turn wise and proper movements for the better control of corporations and for doing away with the abuses connected with wealth, into a campaign of hysterical excitement and falsehood in which the aim is to inflame to madness the brutal passions of mankind. The sinister demagogues and foolish visionaries who are always eager to undertake such a campaign of destruction sometimes seek to associate themselves with those working for a genuine reform in governmental and social methods, and sometimes masquerade as such reformers. In reality they are the worst enemies of the cause they profess to advocate, just as the purveyors of sensational slander in newspaper or magazine are the worst enemies of all men who are engaged in an honest effort to better what is bad in our social and governmental conditions. To preach hatred of the rich man as such, to carry on a campaign of slander and invective against him, to seek to mislead and inflame to madness honest men whose lives are hard and who have not the kind of mental training which will permit them to appreciate the danger in the doctrines preached—all this is to commit a crime against the body politic and to be false to every worthy principle and tradition of American national life. Moreover, while such preaching and such agitation may give a liveliness and a certain notoriety to some of those who take part in it, and may result in the temporary political success of others, in the long run every such movement will either fail or else will provoke a violent reaction, which will itself result not merely in undoing the mischief wrought by the demagog and the agitator, but also in doing the good that the honest reformer, the true upholder of popular rights, has painfully and laboriously achieved. Corruption is never so rife as in communities where the demagog and the agitator bear full sway, because in such communities all moral bands become loosened, and hysteria and sensationalism replace the spirit of sound judgment and fair dealing as between man and man.

I call your attention to the need of passing of the bill limiting the number of hours of employment of railroad employees. The measure is a very moderate one and I can conceive of no serious objection to it. Indeed, so far as it is in our power, it should be our aim steadily to reduce the number of hours of labor with, as a goal, the general introduction of an eight-hour day. There are industries in which it is not to be reduced; just as there are communities not far enough advanced for such a movement to be made for their good, or, if in the Tropics, so situated that there is no analogy between their needs and ours in this matter.

The Congress at its last session wisely provided for a truant court for the District of Columbia; a marked step in advance on the path of properly caring for the children. Let me again urge that the Congress provide for a thorough investigation of the conditions of child labor and of the labor of women in the United States. More and more our people are growing to recognize the fact that the questions which are not merely of industrial but of social importance outweigh all others; and these two questions most emphatically come in the category of those which affect in the most far-reaching way the home life of the Nation. The horrors incident to the employment of young children in factories or at work anywhere are a blot on

our civilization. It is true that each State must ultimately settle the question in its own way; but a thorough official investigation of the matter, with the results published broadcast, would greatly help toward arousing the public conscience and securing unity of State action in the matter. There is, however, one law on the subject which should be enacted immediately, because there is no need for an investigation in reference thereto, and the failure to enact it is discreditable to the National Government. A drastic and thoroughgoing child-labor law should be enacted for the District of Columbia and the Territories.

Among the excellent laws which the Congress passed at the last session was an employers' liability law. It was a marked step in advance to get the recognition of employers' liability on the statute books; but the law did not go far enough. In spite of all precautions exercised by employers there are unavoidable accidents and even deaths involved in nearly every line of business connected with the mechanic arts. This inevitable sacrifice of life may be reduced to a minimum, but it cannot be completely eliminated. It is a great social injustice to compel the employee, or rather the family of the killed or disabled victim, to bear the inevitable burden of such a sacrifice. In other words society shirks its duty by laying the whole cost on the victim, whereas the injury comes from what is called the legitimate risks of the trade. Compensation for accidents or deaths due in any line of industry to the actual conditions under which that industry is carried on, should be paid by that portion of the community for the benefit of which the industry is carried on—that is, by those who profit by the industry. If the entire trade risk is placed upon the employer he will promptly and properly add it to the legitimate cost of production and consumers of his commodity. It is therefore clear to my mind that the law should place this entire "risk of a trade" upon the employer.

The present Congress has taken long strides in the direction of securing proper supervision and control by the National Government over corporations engaged in interstate business and the enormous majority of corporations of any size are engaged in interstate business. The passage of the railway rate bill, and only to a less degree the passage of the pure food bill, and the provision for increasing and rendering more effective national control over the beef-packing industry, mark an important advance in the proper direction. In the short session it will probably be difficult to do much further in this line; and it may be best to wait till the laws have been in operation for a number of months before endeavoring to increase their scope, because only operation will show with exactness their merits and their shortcomings and thus give opportunity to define what further remedial legislation is needed. Yet in my judgment it will in the end be advisable in connection with the inspection law to provide for putting section law to provide for putting a date on the label and for charging the cost of the inspection to the packers. All these have already justified their enactment. The interstate commerce law, for instance, has rather amusingly falsified the predictions, both of those who asserted it would ruin the railroads and of those who asserted that it did not go far enough and would accomplish nothing. During the last five months the railroads have shown increased earnings, and some of them unusual dividends; while during the same period the mere taking effect of the law hitherto unheard of number of, voluntary reductions in freights and fares by the railroads. Since the founding of the Commission there has never been a time of equal length in which anything like so many reduced tariffs have been put into effect.

The question of taxation is difficult in this country, but it is especially

difficult in ours with its Federal system of government. Some taxes should on every ground be levied on a small district for use in that district. Thus the taxation of real estate is particularly one for the immediate locality in which the real estate is found. Again, there is no more legitimate tax for any State than a tax on the franchises conferred by that State upon street railroads and similar corporations which operate wholly within the State boundaries, sometimes in one and sometimes in several municipalities or other minor divisions of the State. But there are many kinds of taxes which only can be levied by the General Government so as to produce the best results, because, among other reasons, the attempt to impose them in one particular State, too often results in driving the corporation or individual affected to some other locality or other part of the State. The National Government has long derived its chief revenue from a tariff on imports and from an internal or excise tax. In addition to these there is every reason why, when next our system of taxation is revised, the National Government should impose a graduated inheritance tax, and, if possible, a graduated income tax. The man of great wealth owes a peculiar obligation to the State, because he derives special advantages from the mere existence of government. Not only should he recognize this obligation in the way he leads his daily life and in the way he earns and spends his money, but it should also be recognized by the way in which he pays for the protection the State gives him.

I am well aware of how difficult it is to pass a constitutional amendment. Nevertheless the whole question of marriage and divorce should be relegated to the authority of the National Congress. At present the wide differences in the laws of the different States on this subject result in scandals and abuses; and surely there is nothing so essentially vital to the welfare of the nation, nothing around which the nation should so bend itself to throw every safeguard, as the home life of the average citizen. The change would be good from every standpoint. In particular it would be good because it would confer on the Congress the power to deal at once radically and efficiently with polygamy; and this should be done whether or not marriage and divorce are dealt with. It is neither safe nor proper to leave the question of polygamy to be dealt with by the several states. Power to deal with it should be conferred upon the National Government.

Last August an insurrection broke out in Cuba which speedily grew evident that the existing Cuban government was powerless to quell. This government was repeatedly asked by the then Cuban Government to interfere, and finally was notified by the President of Cuba, that he intended to resign; that his decision was irrevocable; that none of the other constitutional officers would consent to carry on the Government, and that he was powerless to maintain order. It was evident that chaos was impending and there was every probability that if steps were not immediately taken by this government, to restore order, the representatives of various European nations in the island would apply to their respective governments for armed intervention in order to protect the lives and property of their citizens. Thanks to the preparedness of our Navy, I was immediately able to send enough ships to Cuba to prevent the situation from becoming hopeless; and I furthermore dispatched to Cuba the Secretary of War and the Assistant Secretary of State, in order that they might grapple with the situation on the ground. All efforts to secure an agreement between the contending factions, by which they themselves might come to an amicable understanding and settle upon some *modus vivendi*—some provisional government of their own, failed. Finally the President of the Republic resigned. The quorum of Congress assembled failed by deliberate purpose of its members, so that there was no power to act on his resignation, and Government came to a halt. In accordance with the so-called Platt amendment, which was embodied in the constitution of Cuba, I thereupon proclaimed a provisional government for the island, the Secretary of War acting as provisional governor until he could be replaced by Mr. Magoon, the late minister to Panama and Governor of the Canal Zone on the Isthmus; troops were sent to support them, and to relieve the Navy, the expedition being handled with most satisfactory speed and efficiency.

Morning Astorian, 50 cents per month, delivered by carrier.

MEETING OF ASTORIA SCHOOL BOARD

FULL ATTENDANCE AND ESTIMATES MADE OF EXPENSES FOR NEXT YEAR UPON WHICH TO BASE ANNUAL TAX LEVY.

The board of directors of school district No. 1 of Astoria, held their regular monthly meeting at the office of the district clerk last evening. After reading the minutes of the previous meeting, a number of claims which had been approved by the various committees were read and ordered paid. The bill of Leander Lebeck was referred back for a more complete statement.

Communication from Miss Heaton relative to being one minute late on account of derailed car, the excuse was granted.

Communication from L. Agren asking for a raise of salary was filed. The board will not raise any salaries during the next year.

Communication from the Astoria school teachers, stating that they desired to attend the state institute for three days, a dasking that the time lost be added to the end of the term was read. Also asking for twenty per cent increase in salaries. It was reported that only ten out of thirty-four teachers attended the institute, and the object of holding the state institute during the middle of the quarter is to provide a holiday for the teachers, their pay going on just the same. Taylor moved that the clerk notify the teachers, that the board had heard all they wanted to about an increase in salaries. All the teachers had signed a contract at the beginning of the school year, agreeing to teach for the school term at a stipulated salary. If the teachers don't want to work for the salaries paid, the board will hold a special meeting at any time to accept their resignations. Mr. Welch stated that he could secure 200 teachers in Chicago, who would be anxious and willing to come to Astoria and teach for the salaries paid.

Report that Prof. Garman had suspended Pearl Adams and John Stanglund and his action was indorsed and approved. It was reported that there were fifteen children in the Stanglund family.

In the matter of the suspension of Tommy Andrich and Lawrence Upsher for assaulting Prof. Kessler, the school superintendent was instructed to secure a written statement of the facts, for the future action of the board. Welch said if the teachers couldn't whip the scholars, he ought to be fired. It was explained that several boys had left the Shively school to attend the McClure school in order to have fun with Prof. Kessler, he not being very large of stature. The board decided to make an example of the incorrigible pupils.

Superintendent Clark submitted an informal report of the estimated receipts and expenditures for the ensuing year, and will compile the same for presentation to a meeting of the tax-payers of the district.

The estimated receipts, with cash on hand is \$46,394.56. The expense for the past year was \$36,011.30. There was \$8,347.47 in the bank and \$1,014.78 in the hands of the county treasurer, all of which would be used up before the end of the school year. It is estimated that \$21,500 will be received from the state and county tax and \$16,174 from an eight mill tax levy, which will be sufficient to maintain the schools for the next year. The following estimates of expenses are approximated:

Bond interest	\$ 3,720.00
Teachers' salaries	22,000.00
Repairs	4,000.00
Wood	1,200.00
Janitors	2,300.00
Superintendent	1,500.00
Total	\$34,720.00

The clerk was instructed to call a special meeting of the tax-payers of the district to meet at the Shively school house on Tuesday evening, Dec. 18, for the purpose of levying the annual school tax, the board deciding to recommend a levy of six mills for school purposes and two mills for repairs. There being no further business the board adjourned.

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BALDWIN RECOVERED.

Thirteen-Year-Old Boy Injured in an Automobile Accident.

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.—Ralph Baldwin, the 13-year-old son of Sylvester Baldwin of Norwalk, Conn., who was struck by "Joe" Tracey's racing automobile in the Vanderbilt cup races, has recovered, contrary to the expectations of the surgeons.

While in the race Tracey's car ran into the crowd at the turn in East Norwalk and Baldwin was knocked down. Both of his ankles were broken. The surgeons advised that one of his legs be amputated. "I'd rather die than be a cripple all my life, the young man declared." His father did not insist upon the operation without the boy's consent, and Ralph's wish prevailed. As a result, however, tetanus set in and for weeks his life was despaired of.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Court Demands Bonds and Vouchers in Standard Oil Company.

FINDLAY, O., Dec. 4.—In a motion filed today in the circuit court by the State of Ohio in its suit against the Buckeye Pipe Line Company, the

court is asked to make an order for the production of all bonds and vouchers of the Standard Oil company. The names of all the directors in the Standard Oil company and its subsidiary companies are also asked for. As a further source of information, in its prosecution, the state asks for an accounting of all oil transported by the Standard Oil company during the past three years, to whom shipped and the names of the individuals or corporations who paid the charges. The suit was recently filed by the state.

DONE BY DEED.

Nehalem Timber Co. to Albert S. Kerry, Sectional lands in Clatsop county ... \$100,000
A. S. Kerry and wife to Washington and Oregon Timber Co., sectional lands in Clatsop county ... 155,000
P. J. Brix and wife to Asmus Brix, lot 3, block 10, Shively's Astoria ... 5

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